

**Questions and Answers
for the
Geothermal Program Solicitation:
PON-10-501**

1. Is the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) applicable to Federal or Tribal Land?
 - a. CEQA does not usually apply to federal or tribal land. However, if the applicant is required to obtain a state permit or if state grant monies are being used for a project, CEQA compliance may be a condition of the grant or permit. For the purposes of the Geothermal Program grants the Energy Commission requires CEQA or NEPA compliance for every project. .
2. Can a Non-Profit apply directly for a grant?
 - a. No, a non-profit can only apply through partnership with a local jurisdiction or a private, for profit entity where the applicant is the local jurisdiction or for profit entity.
3. Can United States Department of the Interior or other non-Energy Commission grant funding be used as match for Energy's Geothermal funding?
 - a. Yes.
4. How does a local utility that is a not-for-profit provider qualify?
 - a. A local utility that is not-for-profit is not eligible to apply unless the provider is in partnership with an eligible entity, and that eligible entity is the applicant. An eligible entity is a local jurisdiction or a for profit company.
5. Do we have to pay DIR's Prevailing Wage?
 - a. Yes.
6. What makes an "overriding issue"?
 - a. These are issues raised in the solicitation determined by the technical staff in response to current needs and trends in geothermal development.

7. Where do we bring the copy of the application?

- a. The original and three (3) copies of the applications must be received by the TIME and DATE noted in the solicitation. NO LATE SUBMISSIONS will be accepted. The address for submitting the applications is:

**California Energy Commission
1516 9th Street, MS1
Sacramento, CA 95814**

8. Is there a receipt process?

- a. Yes. Receipts are available for hand delivered applications. Mailed or professionally delivered applications will only have whatever receipt is provided by the service they use.

9. Whose clock is used to define the closing time for application acceptance?

- a. We use the Security Desk clock at the entrance to The Energy Commission building. A Grants & Loans officer will be at the Security Desk at least 15 minutes prior to the deadline date and time to receive applications for last minute drop-off. If the application is being dropped off before the deadline, please have the security personnel contact us in our department.

10. If a project crosses into more than one county, and the counties have different County of Origin status how is the allotment of funds for a "County of Origin" ascertained?

- a. The answer to this question would need to be determined in consultation with the specific counties involved. For purposes of your application it is safest to assume the entire project is treated as though it is in a County of Origin, and you may indicate the situation in your application and ask to have it addressed if awarded.

11. What are the "Counties of Origin"?

- a. Imperial, Inyo, Lake, Lassen, Mono, Siskiyou, and Sonoma.

12. How are Counties of Origin determined?

- a. As stated in the California Public Records Act section 3806 Counties of Origin are counties where the US Government has leased lands for geothermal development.

13. Are there funding opportunities available for companies outside of California?
- Yes, but they need to be registered with the California Secretary of State as doing business in California. If a project is not located in California the applicant must show how it will benefit California.
14. Can a University that has projects in California qualify?
- No, universities cannot be the applicant under this solicitation. However, a university can be a subcontractor and actually do most of the work.
15. Does data from previous work qualify as match funding?
- Data gathered as part of work funded by the Commission in a previous project, or that was previously used as match, or that was gathered by work that was previously used as match would not qualify. However, there are precedents for use of proprietary "legacy" data as match in prior GRDA projects, subject to the above limitations. The donor has to be willing to allow the data and their interpretation to be made public; also a credible and reasonable means of valuing the data is needed. Additionally, the data need to be of quality usable for the purposes of the project in question. Technical staff make these determinations
16. The application references Exhibit A-1. But there are no references to appendices? Please explain.
- This is an error in the manual that was corrected in Addendum 1.
17. Is power transmission considered a priority? It is not listed as such.
- The priority issues are listed as "Overriding Issues" in the Solicitation Manual on pages 2 through 4. Power transmission is important but not unique to geothermal.
18. Is Modoc County a County of Origin and have they received \$50,000.00 in funding over the past 3 years?
- No, Modoc is not a County of Origin, and has not received County of Origin funds in the last three years.
19. There are two different due dates for the Pre-Application and for the final Application. Which ones are correct?
- The correct dates were listed in Table 1: Schedule of Solicitation Milestones, and are 2/22/11 for the pre-application, and 4/21/11 for the final application (both no later than 4:00 p.m.). The incorrect dates have been corrected in Addendum 1 of the solicitation.

20. Are Rural Electric Cooperatives (REC's) eligible applicants? REC's are not for profit member-owned organizations that provide electric service through transmission and distribution systems to their members. A member is any entity that receives electrical service.
- a. No, Only local jurisdictions and for profit companies may apply. All other entities must partner with one of these.
21. Will the Q&A's from today's workshop be posted on the web?
- a. Yes.
22. Will the awarded projects be funded on June 29 at the Business Meeting?
- a. At the Business Meeting, the Commission can approve the funding of grants listed in the posted Notice of Proposed Awards (NOPA). Actual funding will not occur until funding agreements have been signed by both the Recipient and the Commission staff. In addition, GRDA requires that a 30-day notice be given to the Legislature for their review, after the Business Meeting. Unless the Legislature modifies the awards, projects can be funded after the 30-day review.
23. Would a joint applicant be qualified to receive funds?
- a. No, there must be only one applicant. There may be other participants who will be treated as subcontractors for the purposes of the grant if the application is awarded.
24. Can confidential data, such as geophysical data, be submitted and kept confidential?
- a. Not as any part of the application. An application that includes confidential materials will be rejected. Materials may only be kept confidential when advance permission is obtained during the process of negotiating the Funding Agreement for an approved award. If confidentiality is requested after the agreement is signed, approval may not be granted, and the review process may be lengthy. Review by the Legal office will be needed, perhaps with input by the Commission's technical project manager, and ultimate approval/disapproval will be given by the Executive Director.
25. Are hybrid projects, e.g. geothermal and solar eligible?
- a. Yes.
26. If the project involves power production, is a Power Purchase Agreement required?
- a. No.

27. Is the State of California able to buy power from a project?
- a. The State cannot buy power within the GRDA program. The GRDA regulation does not prevent funding a project which sells power to the State under other programs.
28. Do tribes need to comply with CEQA in order to get a grant from this solicitation?
- a. Yes, in order to receive State grant money, tribes need to comply with CEQA or demonstrate equivalent compliance, such as complying with NEPA for the same project. If they have environmental regulations of their own that they follow, and those regulations are comparable with CEQA or NEPA, that may be sufficient. .
29. Are Tribal governments eligible?
- a. Yes, any unit of Indian government is defined as a “local jurisdiction.” Please see section E.5 starting on page 6 of the Application Manual for more details on eligibility.
30. May non-profits apply on their own directly, or only as a partner on another application? How may community-based organizations apply?
- a. No, only local jurisdictions and for profit companies may apply. All other entities must partner with one of these.
31. If an Applicant has used no-cost technical assistance, may the Applicant value and use this as match funding for GRDA?
- a. Yes, but only if the assistance without cost is within the term of the agreement.
32. Since the economy is slow and market wage rates have declined in the last two years, is there a reduction in prevailing wages required?
- a. DIR makes the determination on the level of prevailing wages, so applicants should check with DIR.
33. Are the overriding issues shown in the slide presentation, and in section D starting on page 2 of the application manual, ones that can help increase the score of application?
- a. Yes, attention to these issues will be evaluated favorably as indicated in Exhibit D Scoring of the Applications in the application manual.

34. If a project is in two counties, one a County of Origin, and one not a County of Origin, what level of match is required?
- a. The answer to this question would depend on the specifics of the project. For purposes of your application it is safest to assume the entire project is treated as though it is in a County of Origin, and you may indicate the situation in your application and ask to have it addressed if awarded.
35. Please list the County of Origin counties? Is Napa County included?
- a. No, Counties of Origin only include: Imperial, Inyo, Lake, Lassen, Mono, Siskiyou and Sonoma.
36. Is a project inside California sponsored by a non-California company eligible?
- a. Yes, a project in California sponsored by an out of state company is eligible.
37. Can data provided as match share funding be from before the term of this agreement?
- a. No. Prior investments in the project do not qualify as match funds. Proposed match funding must be spent concurrently with GRDA Program funds. For in-kind match such as data, please see answer to question 15.
38. Can old data in a new format be used as match funding?
- a. See Question 15.
39. In which funding category would a technical project on transmission fall?
- a. The emphasis in the GRDA program is on research, mitigation, and planning projects which directly aid the development of geothermal energy within California. Thus, a project that focuses on transmission may not meet the requirements of this solicitation. The proposal would have to show a geothermal emphasis and establish an impact on California geothermal development.
40. When is the deadline to submit questions regarding the solicitation?
- a. January 24, 2011 at 4:00 pm.